

AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #103

BOOK ONE: WATER

CHAPTER THREE: "The Southern Air Temple"

Written by

Michael Dante DiMartino

As Broadcast DRAFT
February 8, 2005

ACT ONE

EXT. SHORELINE - EARTH NATION - SUNRISE

Aang ties the reins to Appa's horns. Katara is in the saddle, packing up her sleeping bag. Sokka is still asleep, next to the extinguished campfire. There are traces of snow on the ground.

AANG

Wait 'till you see it, Katara. The Air Temple is one of the most beautiful places in the world!

KATARA

Aang, I know you're excited, but it's been a hundred years since you've been home.

AANG

That's why I'm so excited.

KATARA

It's just that a lot can change in all that time.

AANG

I know, but I need to see it for myself.

Aang jumps off of Appa and lands next to Sokka.

AANG (cont'd)

Wake up Sokka! Air temple, here we come!

SOKKA

(SLEEPY NOISES)

Sleep now. Temple later.

Sokka rolls over and goes back to sleep. Aang puts his finger to his mouth and makes a "Shhhh" gesture to Katara. Aang grabs a vine off the ground and wriggles it over Sokka's sleeping bag.

AANG

Sokka wake up, there's a prickly-snake in your sleeping bag!

Sokka freaks out and gets up. He tries to run away, but the sleeping bag is still caught around his legs.

SOKKA

Ahh! Get it off, get it off!

Aang and Katara LAUGH. The tangled sleeping bag causes Sokka to trip and fall face first onto the ground.

AANG

Great, you're awake. Let's go!

EXT. OCCUPIED EARTH NATION HARBOR - DAY

The hull of Prince Zuko's ship is still damaged from the iceberg (episode 102.) It looks very outdated and rundown compared to the larger and more modern Fire Navy war-ships. Zuko walks with his Uncle down the ramp to the docks.

ZUKO

Uncle, I want the repairs made as quickly as possible. I don't want to stay too long and risk losing his trail.

UNCLE

You mean, the Avatar?

ZUKO

(stopping his Uncle)
Don't mention him on these docks. Once word gets out that he is alive, every Firebender will be out looking for him. And I don't want anyone getting in the way.

COMMANDER ZHAO (O.S.)

Getting in the way of what, Prince Zuko?

Zuko turns to see COMMANDER ZHAO walk up the docks toward him. (Commander Zhao is early 40's, Fire Nation loyalist, opportunist, suspicious of everyone.)

ZUKO

(with contempt)
Captain Zhao.

COMMANDER ZHAO

It's Commander now.
(bowing to Uncle)
And General Iroh... great hero of our nation!

UNCLE
Retired General.

COMMANDER ZHAO
The Fire Lord's brother and son are
welcome guests anytime. What
brings you to my harbor?

UNCLE
Our ship is being repaired.

COMMANDER ZHAO
(looking at Zuko's ship)
That's quite a bit of damage.

ZUKO
(lying)
Yes, you wouldn't believe what
happened. Uncle, tell Commander
Zhao what happened.

UNCLE
Yes. I will do that. It was
incredible!
(beat)
What, did we crash or something?

ZUKO
Yes. Right into an Earth Kingdom
ship.

COMMANDER ZHAO
(suspicious)
Really? You must regale me with
all the thrilling details. Join me
for a drink?

ZUKO
Sorry, but we have to go--

Zuko starts to leave, but Uncle stops him.

UNCLE
Prince Zuko, show Commander Zhao
your respect.
(to Commander Zhao)
We would be honored to join you.
Do you have any ginseng tea? It's
my favorite.

Zuko scowls at his Uncle as they all exit.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Aang, Katara, and Sokka fly on Appa through the clouds. Sokka rifles through the food sacks, his stomach GRUMBLING loudly. Katara sits with Aang on Appa's head.

SOKKA

Hey stomach, be quiet, alright.
I'm trying to find us some food.

He opens a food sack and a couple crumbs fall into his hand.

SOKKA (cont'd)

Hey, who ate all my blubbered seal
jerky?

AANG

Oh. That was food? I used it to
start the campfire last night.
Sorry!

SOKKA

You WHAT?!
(then, longingly)
Awww, no wonder the flames smelled
so good.

Appa emerges from a cloud bank and approaches a GIANT MOUNTAIN RANGE. Its jagged peaks rise high into the sky.

AANG

The Patola mountain range-- we're
almost there!

KATARA

Aang, before we get to the temple,
I want to talk to you about the
Airbenders.

AANG

What about them?

KATARA

Well...I just want you to be
prepared for what you might see.
The Fire Nation is ruthless. They
killed my mother. They could have
done the same to your people.

AANG

Just because no one has seen an Airbender doesn't mean that the Fire Nation killed them all. They probably escaped.

KATARA

I know it's hard to accept.

AANG

(lighthearted)

You don't understand. Katara, the only way to get to an Airbender temple is on a flying bison. And I doubt the Fire Nation has any flying bison, right Appa?

Appa BELLOWES in response.

AANG (cont'd)

(to Appa)

Yip-Yip!

Aang pulls the reins and Appa begins his ascent toward the mountain.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MOUNTAIN - DAY

The kids hold on tight to Appa as they climb higher and higher. The wind whips their clothes and hair. Aang gives Katara and Sokka each a piece of seaweed.

Appa emerges from the clouds, revealing the AIR TEMPLE. It sits on the mountaintop, high above the world. Entirely constructed out of wood, the Air Temple appears to rise out of the snow-covered mountain. Overgrown vines and vegetation cover the temple making it part of the organic landscape. (Think an ancient combination of Frank Gehry and Gaudi.)

AANG

There it is...the Southern Air Temple.

Katara and Sokka smile, awed by the sight.

KATARA

Aang, it's amazing!

Aang pats Appa on the head.

AANG
We're home, buddy. We're home.

EXT. COMMANDER ZHAO'S TENT - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Two guards stand post outside the tent.

INT. COMMANDER ZHAO'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

The tent is elaborately decorated with tapestries, paintings, and various weapons.

Zuko sits at a table. Commander Zhao pours himself a drink and paces back and forth in front of Zuko. Uncle is looking at the tapestries and weapons.

COMMANDER ZHAO
...And by year's end, the Earth Kingdom capital will be under our rule. The Fire Lord will finally claim victory in this war.

ZUKO
If my father thinks the rest of the world will follow him willingly, then he is a fool.

COMMANDER ZHAO
Two years at sea have done little to temper your tongue.

There is an uncomfortable silence as Zhao sips his tea, then wipes the corners of his mouth.

COMMANDER ZHAO (cont'd)
So...how is your search for the Avatar going?

Uncle looses his grip on one of the weapons, causing several to fall over causing a loud clanging noise.

UNCLE
My fault entirely.

ZUKO
We haven't found him yet.

COMMANDER ZHAO
Did you really expect to? The
Avatar died a hundred years
ago...along with the rest of the
Airbenders.

Zuko's eyes look away. It's a subtle tell, but the Commander
notices that he's lying.

COMMANDER ZHAO (cont'd)
Unless you've found some evidence
that the Avatar is alive?

ZUKO
No. Nothing.

COMMANDER ZHAO
Prince Zuko, the Avatar is the only
one who can stop the Fire Nation
from winning this war. If you have
an ounce of loyalty left, you'll
tell me what you found.

ZUKO
I haven't found anything. It's
like you said, the Avatar probably
died a long time ago.
(beat)
Come on Uncle, we're going.

Zuko and his Uncle begin to leave but two guards enter and
block their path.

GUARD #1
Commander Zhao, we interrogated the
crew as you instructed. They
confirmed Prince Zuko had the
Avatar in custody, but let him
escape.

Commander Zhao smiles and looks at Zuko. Zuko looks down,
his whole world crumbling under him.

COMMANDER ZHAO
Now, remind me-- how exactly was
your ship damaged?

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - DAY

Appa wanders the snow-covered grounds as Aang leads Sokka and
Katara toward the entrance. Wild vegetation covers
everything.

SOKKA

So, where do I get something to eat?

KATARA

You're lucky enough to be one of the first outsiders to ever visit an Airbender temple, and all you can think about is food?

SOKKA

I'm just a simple guy with simple needs.

Aang, Katara, and Sokka walk past an overgrown courtyard.

AANG

(like an excited tour guide)

So that's where my friends and I would play Airball...and over there is where the bison would sleep...and-- (SIGHS)

Aang stops and looks around, a sad expression on his face.

KATARA

What's wrong?

AANG

This place used to be full of monks and lemurs and bison. Now there's just a bunch of weeds...

(beat)

I can't believe how much things have changed.

Katara and Sokka look at each other, unsure what to say.

SOKKA

So...uh, this Airball game. How do you play?

Aang smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - MOMENTS LATER

Sokka stands in front of the goal - a beautifully carved, circular wood wall with a hole in the center. Aang stands far away from him.

Aang spins the ball into the air and then uses Airbending to throw the ball at the goal. Sokka holds his arms out to catch it. The ball SMACKS into Sokka, sending him head over heels, and goes into the goal.

AANG

Aang, seven. Sokka, zero.

Sokka lies on the ground, covered in twigs and snow, his hair a frizzy mess.

SOKKA

(to himself)

(GROAN) Making him feel better is putting me in a world of hurt.

Sokka notices something in the brush. He pushes back some vines, revealing a tattered FIRE NATION FLAG, two rusty FIREBENDER HELMETS, and some FIRE NATION WEAPONS.

SOKKA (cont'd)

Katara, check this out.

Katara approaches and sees the Firebender evidence.

KATARA

Fire Nation.

SOKKA

We should tell him.

KATARA

Aang, there's something you need to see.

Katara looks at Aang who is walking toward them, happily spinning the ball up in the air.

AANG

(cheerful)

Okay. What is it.

Katara looks back at the evidence, then changes her mind. Before Aang can see the Firebender evidence, Katara uses Waterbending to knock snow off an overhang, covering the flag and helmet.

KATARA

(covering)

Uh...just a new Waterbending move I learned.

Sokka looks at her, confused.

AANG

Nice one. But enough practicing.
We have a whole temple to see!

Aang runs ahead into the temple. Katara and Sokka follow behind. Sokka gives Katara a disapproving look as they follow Aang.

SOKKA

You know you can't protect him
forever.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. AIR TEMPLE - ENTRANCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Aang leads Katara and Sokka into the temple. They follow behind, out of Aang's earshot.

SOKKA

Katara, Firebenders were here. You can't pretend they weren't.

KATARA

I can for Aang's sake. If he finds out that the Fire Nation invaded his home, he'll be devastated.

AANG

Hey guys, I want you to meet somebody!

Aang stands in front of a decayed statue of a monk wearing a distinctly large headpiece. (He also has an arrow on his head like Aang.)

SOKKA

Who's that?

AANG

Monk Gyatso-- the greatest Airbender in the world. He taught me everything I know.

Katara and Sokka watch on as Aang bows to the statue.

ANGLE ON: The decaying wood statue.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - 100 YEARS AGO

ANGLE ON: The real Monk Gyatso.

MONK GYATSO

But the true secret...is in the gooley center.

Reveal that Monk Gyatso is pulling a cake-like pastry out of a large, brick oven.

AANG

Hmmm.

Aang appears very distracted. Monk Gyatso places the cake next to several others on a ledge overlooking the Air Temple grounds.

MONK GYATSO

My ancient cake making technique
isn't the only thing on your mind,
is it Aang?

AANG

This whole Avatar thing...Maybe the
monks made a mistake?

MONK GYATSO

The only mistake they made was
telling you before you turned
sixteen. But we can't concern
ourselves with what was, we must
act on what is.

AANG

But Gyatso, how do I know if I'm
ready for this?

MONK GYATSO

Your questions will be answered
when you're old enough to enter the
Air temple sanctuary. Inside, you
will meet someone who will guide
you on your journey.

AANG

Who is it?

MONK GYATSO

When you are ready, he will reveal
himself to you.

(beat)

Now are you going to help me with
these cakes or not?

AANG

(smiling)

Alright.

Aang and Monk Gyatso take a stance near the cakes.

MONK GYATSO

One...two...three!

Aang and Monk Gyatso use Airbending to blow all the cakes off
the ledge.

ANGLE ON: Monks meditating in the lotus garden. Suddenly, the pies smack onto their heads. Lemurs fly in and eat the cake off the monks' heads.

Aang and Monk Gyatso hide behind the ledge and LAUGH.

MONK GYATSO (cont'd)
Your aim has improved greatly, my
young pupil.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIR TEMPLE - ENTRANCE HALL - PRESENT DAY

Aang comes out of his bow and opens his eyes. Katara puts a hand on his shoulder.

KATARA
You must miss him.

AANG
(nodding)
Yeah.

Aang walks down the hall.

KATARA
Where are you going?

AANG
The Air temple sanctuary. There's
someone I'm ready to meet.

Katara and Sokka give each other a confused look and follow Aang down the hall.

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AIRBENDER SANCTUARY DOORS

The carved doors are weathered and vine-covered. Aang, Katara, and Sokka walk up to them.

KATARA
But Aang, no one could have
survived in there for a hundred
years.

AANG
It's not impossible. I survived in
the iceberg for that long.

KATARA

Good point.

AANG

Katara, whoever's in there might help me figure out this Avatar thing.

SOKKA

And whoever's in there might have a medley of delicious, cured meats!

Sokka frantically begins pulling and pushing the doors. They don't budge.

SOKKA (cont'd)

(STRUGGLING NOISES) I don't suppose you have a key?

AANG

The key, Sokka, is Airbending.

Aang places his hands in two ducts and takes an Airbending stance. He forces wind through the pipes, unlocking a series of ELABORATE WOOD MECHANICS within the doors. It looks as if the inanimate carvings have come to life. Katara and Sokka look on, amazed.

The doors slowly open into a large, ominous, dark room. As Aang walks through the threshold a DISTINCTIVE TONE resonates, like a giant wind instrument. Aang disappears into the darkness.

AANG (cont'd)

Hello? Anyone home?

Katara and Sokka give each other a look and walk through the threshold. The distinctive tone resonates again.

INT. COMMANDER ZHAO'S TENT - DAY

Commander Zhao speaks to Zuko as Uncle quietly sips his tea.

COMMANDER ZHAO

So a twelve-year-old boy bested you and your Firebenders? You're more pathetic than I thought.

ZUKO

I underestimated him once, but it will not happen again.

COMMANDER ZHAO
No, it will not. Because you won't
have a second chance.

ZUKO
Commander Zhao, I've been hunting
the Avatar for two years and I--

COMMANDER ZHAO
(interrupting)
And you've failed. Capturing the
Avatar is too important to leave in
a teenager's hands. He's mine now.

ZUKO
(ANGRY LUNGING SOUND)

Zuko lunges at the Commander. The guards hold him back.

COMMANDER ZHAO
(to guards)
Keep them here.

Commander Zhao exits. Zuko knocks the teapot over in a fit
of rage.

UNCLE
(to guards)
More tea, please.

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AIRBENDER SANCTUARY - DAY

Aang, Katara, and Sokka walk into the Airbender vault. Rows
and rows of full-figure wooden statues line the room. Each
one is different than the last. Aang looks at them with
amazement.

SOKKA
Statues? That's it? Where's the
meat?

KATARA
Who are all these people?

AANG
I'm not sure. But it feels like I
know them somehow.
(pointing)
Look, that one's an Airbender.

Katara walks down the row, pointing at the next statue in
line.

KATARA

And this one's a Waterbender.
They're lined up in a pattern:
air, water, earth, and fire.

AANG

That's the Avatar cycle.

KATARA

Of course, they're Avatars!-- All
these people are your past lives,
Aang.

AANG

(in awe)

Wow. There's so many.

Aang walks up to a statue of an old Firebender man. A glimmer passes over the statue's eyes. Of all the statues, this one seems the most alive and connected to Aang. Aang stares at it, transfixed.

SOKKA

Past lives? Katara, you really
believe in that stuff?

KATARA

It's true. When the Avatar dies,
he's reincarnated into the next
nation in the cycle.

Sokka points out a statue of an Earthbender woman (KYOSHI) holding fans. NOTE: this is similar to the statue we will see in episode 104.

Sokka blushes, embarrassed. Aang continues to stare at the Firebender statue, as if under its power.

KATARA (cont'd)

Aang, snap out of it.

Katara shakes Aang. He snaps out of the trance.

AANG

Huh?

KATARA

Who is that?

AANG

That's Avatar Roku. The Avatar
before me.

SOKKA

You were a Firebender? No wonder I didn't trust you when we first met.

KATARA

There's no writing. How do you know his name?

AANG

(just as surprised)
I'm not sure. I just know it somehow.

SOKKA

You just couldn't get any weirder.

Suddenly, the distinctive threshold note resonates. The kids look at each other, surprised. A long shadow is cast across the floor. It looks like a Firebender with a spiked helmet.

SOKKA (cont'd)

(whispering)

Firebender. Nobody make a sound!

KATARA

You're making a sound--

SOKKA/ AANG

Shhh!

Sokka pulls Katara and Aang behind one of the statues as the shadow moves closer...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AIRBENDER VAULT

ANGLE ON: The floor. The Firebender's shadow gets closer to Aang, Katara, and Sokka's hiding place. Sokka pulls out his club.

SOKKA
That Firebender won't know what hit him.

The shadow is nearly upon them. After a moment of tension, a small lemur steps into view (its ears were the helmet 'spikes.')

The lemur stops, sniffs the air, and turns to see Aang and Sokka staring at it.

AANG
Lemur!

Sokka's stomach GRUMBLES. He has a crazed look in his eyes.

SOKKA
Dinner...

AANG
(to lemur)
Don't listen to him. You're going to be my new pet.

SOKKA
Not if I get him first.

Sokka and Aang look at each other and then back at the lemur. After a beat, the boys lunge at the lemur, scrambling over each other to get at it. The lemur SCREECHES and runs out of the room. Sokka and Aang follow, pushing each other out of the way.

AANG
Wait, come back.

INT. AIR TEMPLE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The lemur races through the halls, followed closely by Aang and Sokka.

SOKKA
I want to eat you!

Sokka tries to trip Aang with his club, but Aang jumps over it and uses Airbending to knock Sokka off his feet. Sokka slams to the ground. He sees Aang follow the lemur onto...

EXT. AIR TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The lemur jumps into the air and flies away.

Aang converts his staff into glider form and jumps off the balcony, chasing after the lemur.

SOKKA
Hey. No fair!

INT. COMMANDER ZHAO'S TENT - DAY

Two guards watch over Uncle and Zuko. Commander Zhao enters.

COMMANDER ZHAO
My search party is ready. Once I'm out to sea, my guards will escort you back to your ship and you will be free to go.

ZUKO
Why? Are you worried I'm going to try and stop you?

COMMANDER ZHAO
(LAUGHS) You, stop me? Impossible.

ZUKO
Don't underestimate me, Zhao. I will capture the Avatar before you.

UNCLE
Prince Zuko, that's enough.

COMMANDER ZHAO
You can't compete with me. I have hundreds of war ships under my command, and you...you're just a banished Prince. No home. No allies. Your own father doesn't even want you.

ZUKO
You're wrong. Once I deliver the Avatar to my father he will welcome me home with honor-- And restore my rightful place on the throne.

COMMANDER ZHAO

If your father really wanted you home he would have let you return by now-- Avatar or no Avatar. But in his eyes, you are a failure and a disgrace to the Fire Nation.

ZUKO

That's not true.

COMMANDER ZHAO

You have the scar to prove it.

Years of Zuko's pent up anger boils to the surface.

ZUKO

Maybe you'd like one to match.

COMMANDER ZHAO

Is that a challenge?

ZUKO

An Agni-Kai. At sunset.

COMMANDER ZHAO

(beat)

Very well. It's a shame your father won't be here to watch me humiliate you. I guess your uncle will do.

Commander Zhao exits.

UNCLE

Prince Zuko, have you forgotten what happened last time you dueled a master?

Zuko touches his scar.

ZUKO

I will never forget.

EXT. AIR TEMPLE GROUNDS - SUNSET

Aang, on his glider, chases the flying lemur. They swerve and barrel roll through the air. The lemur escapes by flying into an alcove covered with overgrowth.

Aang lands and converts his glider back into staff form follows the lemur into the overgrowth.

AANG
Hey, come back!

EXT. AIR TEMPLE GROUNDS - IN THE OVERGROWTH - CONTINUOUS

Aang makes his way through the brush.

AANG
Come on out, little lemur. That
hungry guy won't bother you any
more--

Aang pushes some vines back, uncovering several cobweb-covered skeletons clad in rusty Firebender armor.

AANG (cont'd)
(stunned)
Firebenders? They were here?

Aang pushes back more of the vines and discovers something even more shocking: Three adult skeletons wear remnants of monk's clothing. One of them wears the distinctly large headpiece that Monk Gyatso wore in the flashback. (NOTE: The skeletons have an "Indiana Jones" vibe. They are not too disturbing.)

CLOSE ON: Aang, upset-- taking it all in.

AANG (cont'd)
(dropping his staff)
Gyatso?

Just then, Sokka makes his way through the tangled vines.

SOKKA
Hey Aang, you find my dinner yet?--

Sokka stops when he sees Aang, shoulders slumped, head in his hands. With Aang's back to Sokka, it looks like he's crying.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Aang, I wasn't really gonna eat the
lemur, okay?

Sokka steps closer to Aang and sees the skeletons.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Oh man.
(beat)
Come on Aang, everything will be
alright. Let's get out of here.

Sokka puts his hand on Aang's shoulder. Suddenly, Aang turns around, revealing that his eyes and tattoos are glowing. Sokka stumbles back.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(STARTLED GASP)

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AIRBENDER SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Katara is looking at Avatar Roku's statue when its eyes eerily begin to glow.

One by one, all of the statues' eyes glow until the room is filled with glowing eyes piercing the darkness.

KATARA
(realizing he's in
trouble)
Aang--

Katara runs out of the room.

INT. EARTH KINGDOM SANCTUARY - AT THE SAME TIME

An old man in robes meditates in front of a stone relief sculpture depicting various Avatars, including Avatar Roku. Roku's eyes begin to glow, followed by the others.

The old man opens his eyes, surprised.

EXT. NORTHERN WATER TRIBE SANCTUARY - AT THE SAME TIME

A powerful light glows from within an ice temple. Outside, two women shield their eyes from the light as they look on in awe.

INT. FIRE NATION SANCTUARY - AT THE SAME TIME

A robed priest stands outside a glowing doorway and speaks to a soldier.

PRIEST
Send word to the Fire Lord
immediately. The Avatar has
returned.

EXT. AIR TEMPLE GROUNDS - IN THE OVERGROWTH - CONTINUOUS

Aang is in a strong stance, feet wide and locked to the ground. Aang's Airbending creates a huge blast of wind that knocks Sokka back.

SOKKA
(yelling over the winds)
Aang, come on, snap out of it!

Katara fights her way through the winds, dodging flying branches and vines.

KATARA
(yelling over the winds)
What happened?

SOKKA
He found out Firebenders killed
Gyatso--

KATARA
Oh no! It's his Avatar spirit --
he must have triggered it!

A branch whips past Sokka's head.

KATARA (cont'd)
I'm gonna try and calm him down!

SOKKA
Well do it before he blows us off
the mountain!

Katara tries to make her way to Aang but the winds keep blowing her back.

EXT. OCCUPIED EARTH NATION HARBOR - LOADING DOCKS - SUNSET

Prince Zuko and Commander Zhao kneel on the ground with their backs to each other. They are barefoot and shirtless. Near Commander Zhao stand a dozen of his men (Firebenders and soldiers.) Only Uncle stands next to Zuko.

UNCLE
Remember your Firebending basics,
Prince Zuko. They are your
greatest weapon.

ZUKO
I refuse to let him win.

An ATTENDANT hits a gong, signalling the start of the duel. Zuko and Zhao stand and face each other.

COMMANDER ZHAO
This will be over quickly.

Zuko charges at Zhao with a wild, amazing display of spinning fire kicks and quick punches. Commander Zhao easily avoids the flames.

UNCLE
Basics, Zuko. Break his root!

Zuko and Zhao duel in a fierce back and forth contest. Zhao is clearly the more skilled Firebender, but Zuko fights with ferocious intensity.

Finally, in a fit of pure power and aggression, Zuko knocks the Commander to the ground and takes a stance over him, prepared to deal the winning blow. Zuko's fist is aiming at Zhao's head.

COMMANDER ZHAO
(gritting his teeth)
Do it.

Zuko punches a burst of flame at Zhao. CUT WIDE to reveal that Zuko purposely missed. The ground near Zhao's head is scorched. Zuko stands over Commander Zhao.

COMMANDER ZHAO (cont'd)
That's it? Your father raised a
coward.

ZUKO
Next time you get in my way, I
promise... I won't hold back.

Zuko turns his back and walks away. The Commander gets up and takes a cheap shot at Zuko, kicking flames at him. Uncle quickly steps in and deflects the attack, saving Zuko. Zuko tries to rush the Commander, but Uncle stops him.

UNCLE
No, Prince Zuko. Do not taint your
victory.
(to Commander Zhao)
So this is how the great Commander
Zhao acts in defeat? Disgraceful.
Even in exile, my nephew is more
honorable than you.
(beat)
(MORE)

UNCLE(cont'd)

Thanks again for the tea. It was delicious.

Uncle and Zuko walk away.

ZUKO

Did you really mean that Uncle?

UNCLE

Of course...

Zuko smiles proudly.

UNCLE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

...I told you ginseng tea is my favorite.

EXT. AIR TEMPLE GROUNDS - SUNSET

Aang remains in the "Avatar state", whipping wind and debris everywhere. Katara tries to make her way closer to Aang by hanging onto tree trunks.

KATARA

(yelling over the wind)

Aang, I know you're upset. And I know how hard it is to lose the people you love. I went through the same thing when I lost my mom.

The winds begin to die down a little. Katara moves closer to Aang.

KATARA (cont'd)

Monk Gyatso and the other Airbenders may be gone, but you still have a family. Sokka and I, we're your family now.

The winds are nearly gone. Katara and Sokka approach Aang. Katara holds his hand.

SOKKA

Katara and I aren't going to let anything happen to you. Promise.

The glow from Aang's eyes and tattoos fades away. Aang slumps into Katara's arms with exhaustion.

AANG

I'm sorry.

KATARA

It's okay. It wasn't your fault.

AANG

But you were right. And if
Firebenders found this temple, that
means they found the other ones
too.

(beat, realizing)

I really am the last Airbender.

Katara hugs Aang. In an effort to maintain his tough-guy image, Sokka pats Aang on the back.

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AIRBENDER SANCTUARY - LATER

Aang stands in front of the statue of Avatar Roku. Katara and Sokka walk up behind him.

KATARA

Everything's packed. You ready to go?

AANG

How is Roku supposed to help me if I can't talk to him?

KATARA

Maybe you'll find a way.

The distinctive note resonates again. The kids turn to see the lemur approach, holding an armful of food. He scurries over to Sokka and drops the food at his feet. Sokka grabs the food and starts eating.

AANG

Looks like you made a new friend,
Sokka.

SOKKA

(MOUTH FULL) Can't talk. Must eat.

The lemur climbs onto Aang and sits on his shoulder.

AANG

(to Momo)

Hey little guy.

Momo CHIRRUPS in response.

AANG (cont'd)
You, me, and Appa. We're all
that's left of this place. We have
to stick together.

(then)
Katara, Sokka, say hello to the
newest member of our family.

KATARA
What are you going to name him?

Aang thinks for a moment. He watches Momo take a bite of a
peach.

AANG
Momo.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - NIGHT

WIDE ON: The temple. The kids fly on Appa past camera, into
the night sky.

END OF SHOW